

Representative BOBBY RUSH, who worked so hard to pass this bill as well.

We look forward now to President Biden quickly signing this long-delayed bill into law.

#### BURIAL EQUITY FOR GUARDS AND RESERVES ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 288, S. 2089.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2089) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021".

##### SEC. 2. PROHIBITIONS ON RESTRICTING INTERMENT OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN CERTAIN STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES.

(a) GRANTS.—Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2), by striking "The Secretary may" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (i), the Secretary may";

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (k); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsections:

"(i)(1) The Secretary may not establish a condition for a grant under this section that restricts the ability of a State receiving such a grant to inter in a veterans' cemetery owned by that State any individual described in paragraph (2) solely by reason of the ineligibility of such individual for burial in an open national cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration under section 2402(a) of this title.

"(2) An individual described in this paragraph is the following:

"(A) Any member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable or whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of such a reserve component.

"(B) Any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable or whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard.

"(C) Any member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

"(D) Any spouse of any member described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

"(E) Any minor child or unmarried adult child (as such terms are defined in section 2402(a) of this title) of any member described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

"(j) The Secretary may not deny an application for a grant under this section solely on the basis that the State receiving such grant may use funds from such grant to expand, improve, operate, or maintain a veterans' cemetery in which interment of individuals described in subsection (i)(2) is allowed."

(b) PROHIBITION ON ENFORCING CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON GRANTS FOR STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not enforce a condition on a grant described in subsection (i)(1) of section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), that was established before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PLOT ALLOWANCES.—Section 2303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) the Secretary shall pay to the relevant State, agency, political subdivision, or tribal organization, as the case may be, the sum of \$700 (as increased from time to time under subsection (c)) as a plot or interment allowance for such veteran if the veteran is buried (without charge for the cost of a plot or interment) in a cemetery, or a section of a cemetery, that—

"(A) is used solely for the interment of persons who are—

"(i) eligible for burial in a national cemetery;

"(ii) members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces not otherwise eligible for such burial or former members of such a reserve component not otherwise eligible for such burial who are discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; or

"(iii) described in section 2408(i)(2) of this title; and

"(B) is—

"(i) owned by a State or by an agency or political subdivision of a State; or

"(ii) on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization.";

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "tribal organization," after "of a State,"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) In this section, the terms 'tribal organization' and 'trust land' have the meanings given those terms in section 3765 of this title."

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2089), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2545.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2545) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2545) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third, and passed.

#### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 537, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 537) designating March 2022 as "National Women's History Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month to recognize the extraordinary achievements of past generations of women and to pay tribute to the vital role they have played in the political, economic, and social development of this Nation.

Women's History Month provides a special opportunity to reflect upon the numerous contributions made by women who touch all aspects of our society—from government, to business, the arts and sciences, the military, and much more. I look upon the courage our predecessors displayed with great admiration, and I continue to be inspired by those who blazed the trail for women like me.

I am reminded of how incredibly proud I was to see the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, which I coled with Senator Susan Collins, enacted in December 2020. This law establishes a long-overdue, permanent museum to collect, study, and create programs that celebrate the contributions and experiences of women. The Women's History Museum will be established on or near the National Mall, and I look forward to hearing about the site when it is announced later this year.

However, it is with sadness that the past year brought with it the loss of a number of pioneering women, including the First Lady of Television Betty White; Sarah Weddington, who represented "Jane Roe" in the landmark Roe v. Wade case; authors bell hooks, Beverly Cleary, and Joan Didion; and